

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that the formal drawings filed on July 16, 2003, are accepted.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4, 7-18, and 21-23 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 8-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also by way of this reply, claims 24-29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7, 15-18, 21-29 are now pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 15, and 24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, on claims 1, 15, and 24.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 have been amended for clarification. Applicants respectfully assert no new matter has been introduced by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0011], [0012], [0014], [0039], and [0057] of the published specification and in the originally filed claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12-15, 17, 18, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0105778 (hereinafter "Andani"). By way of this reply, claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14 have been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection is moot as

to those claims. To the extent this rejection applies to the amended pending claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, "establishing communication with a device; receiving a request from said device after establishing communication...retrieving an entry from a list of attributes in response to receiving said request, wherein the list of attributes is available to the portal server prior to establishing communication with said device... and responding to said request with said entry..." Amended independent claim 15 recites similar limitations. Based on the aforementioned amendments, independent claims 1 and 15 require at least: (i) a request be received from the device, (ii) an entry be retrieved from a list of attributes in response to the request, and (iii) the list of attributes be available to the portal server prior to establishing communication with the device (*i.e.*, prior to (i) and (ii)).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Further, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *See*, MPEP §2131.

The Examiner has attempted to equate the list variables and a control point, as disclosed by Andani, with the list of attributes and the portal server, respectively, as recited by amended independent claims 1 and 15. *See*, Office Action dated June 27, 2007, at page 3. Andani discloses that the list of variables (*i.e.*, list of attributes) belongs to a service description file (SDF) of a newly added device. As the SDF is obtained from newly added device, Andani effectively discloses the SDF, and thus the list of variables in the SDF, are only available to the control point (*i.e.*, the portal server) after communication has been established with the newly added device. *See*, Andani at paragraphs [0016], [0017], and [0021]. This squarely contradicts requirement (iii) set forth in

amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, the list of variables, as disclosed by Andani, is not and cannot be equivalent to the list of attributes, as recited by amended independent claims 1 and 15. In fact, as the availability of Andani's list of variables contradicts amended independent claims 1 and 15, any attempt to equate the list of variables and the list of attributes is improper. In view of the above, amended independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Andani. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andani in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,814 (hereinafter "Britton"). By way of this reply, claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection is moot as to those claims. As for the remaining claims, for the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Andani does not anticipate each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1 and 15. Britton, like Andani, also fails to disclose the list of attributes be available to the portal server prior to establishing communication with the device. Thus, Britton does not teach or suggest what Andani lacks. Accordingly, Andani and Britton, whether viewed separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1 and 15. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Andani and Britton. Claims 2, 16, and 23, directly depend from claims 1 and 15 and are thus allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

By way of this reply, claims 24-29 have been added. Applicant respectfully asserts no new matter has been introduced by way of these additions as support for these additional claims may be found for example in Figure 7, paragraphs [0011], [0012], [0014], [0039], and [0057] of the published specification, and in the originally filed claims. Applicants respectfully assert that Andani and Britton, whether viewed separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 24-29. Accordingly, claims 24-29 are allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/513001).

Dated: September 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Robert P. Lord/
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants